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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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Mr. HERBERT MORRISON

Britain's Offer to India

Britain has offered to the people of India ***full liberty*** *to make their own constitution for themselves,* ***even if it means complete independence.*** *Whatever destiny they want for their country* ***after the War*** *they can have,* ***provided only nothing is done during the War to prejudice the victory*** *for the* ***United Nations.*** *Can you tell me any other example in history of a ruling power making such an offer on such a scale, with so much at stake to a subject people? What do you make of it? I make of it one more proof that the British people are looking to the future with exactly the same motives and purposes as brought them into the War*

Mr. HERBERT MORRISON, Home Secretary and Minister of Home Security (now member of the War Cabinet), in a broadcast to the United Nations

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Running Commentary

South-West Pacific Operations: Importance of Kokoda

Air power is the key to success. This fact has been well recognized by the Allies, particularly in the New Guinea and Solomons theatres of war. They have occupied the important airfield of Kokoda in New Guinea at the beginning of this month, and the key Henderson airfield in Gudalcanar continues to remain in American hands. It was on November 2 that Australian troops re-occupied Kokoda, the strategic centre in the heart of New Guinea, which was in Japanese hands for three months. Within 44 days of their capture of Kokoda in July 28, the Japanese had infiltrated southwards across the Owen Stanley Range to within 40 miles of Port Moresby, the principal Allied base north of Australia. They advanced as far as Ioribaiwa, but two months ago, that is in the last week of September General Sir Thomas Blamey's troops began the counter-offensive against the Japanese, and they reached Kokoda within 35 days, as compared with the 44 days the Japanese took to cover the same distance.

The importance of the occupation of Kokoda lies in the fact that it has removed the threat to Port Moresby and provided the Allies with a new airfield. This represents a great stride towards the planned expulsion of the Japanese forces from the Buna-Gona sector. It was reported on Tuesday that Allied troops are steadily closing in on the dwindling Japanese positions in this sector, and it is now stated that General MacArthur's forces are now very near Buna and that Gona has been captured. Hard fighting is going on in that area, and in the face of heavy resistance Allied ground troops are steadily advancing.

Two recent news items show that the Japanese are gravely concerned about the reverses that they have sustained and are making strenuous efforts to recoup their losses. The reinforcements of air units in New Guinea with 'O' fighters and their major attempt to land large-scale reinforcements at Buna reveal their great concern and anxiety. But their efforts have been frustrated by smashing Allied air attacks. With a view to preventing further landing attempts on the part of the Japanese, Allied forces have occupied Goodenough Island, which is about a hundred miles to the east of Buna.

* * * *

Jap Defeat in the Solomons: 142 Major Combat Ships Sunk

Nearly four weeks ago the main body of the Japanese fleet withdrew from the Solomons area. After the indecisive first round of an all-out counter-offensive, it was believed in Washington that this withdrawal was necessitated by the heavy Japanese losses. During last month (October) not less than 369 enemy aircraft were shot down in the South-west Pacific area as a whole. In the three-day action in the Solomons, from November 13 to 15, the Japanese have suffered great naval losses. From U.S. Navy communiqués up to No. 194 describing the Solomons Battle and General Mac Arthur's communiqués up to November 16th, the Japanese naval losses since Pearl Harbour show a grand total of 142

R.I.N's Glorious Achievement!

THE report published in yesterday's papers that a minesweeper of the Royal Indian Navy played a leading part in the destruction of a heavily-armed Japanese raider in the Indian Ocean would have gladdened the hearts of all who have been watching with growing pride the rapid development and progress of the Royal Indian Navy. The minesweeper *H.M.I.S. Bengal*, under the command of Lieutenant-Commander W.J. Wilson, of the Royal Indian Naval Reserve, was excorting the *Ondina*, a Netherlands tanker when she encountered two Japanese raiders about a 1,000 miles south-west of Java. They were the *Kikokumaru* (10,000 tons) and the *Kunikawamaru* (6,863 tons). The R. I. N., minesweeper immediately headed straight for the larger ship with a view to enabling the *Ondina* to escape. This the Dutch tanker refused to do. The minesweeper and the tanker, both mounting single 4-inch guns, returned the fire of the Japanese ships armed with six 5·5-inch guns. A hit on the big raider started a fierce fire. This was followed by many more hits which destroyed the *Kikokumaru*. The Japanese raider finally sank into the sea with two of her aircraft. Indians would feel particularly proud of the glorious achievement of the R.I.N. minesweeper. The Indian Navy is playing its part, and playing it very well, too! . . .

major Japanese combat ships sunk, possibly sunk, or damaged. The details are as follows :—

Battleships : two sunk or destroyed five damaged ;

Aircraft carriers : six sunk or destroyed, six damaged ;

Destroyers : 45 sunk or destroyed, four probably destroyed, 18 damaged ;

Cruisers : 27 sunk or destroyed, one probably destroyed, one possibly destroyed, 27 damaged.

Referring to these losses, the U.S. Navy Secretary Col. Knox said on Friday last (November 20) :

"It is fair to say that our hold on the Island is now very secure—it is, of course, always possible that they will bring in more reinforcements, but they will have to fight their way, and they have not been able to do that yet."

* * * *

Axis Failure at Both Ends Coming as it did in the midst of the serious reverses of the Axis in North Africa, the American naval victory off the Solomons must have had a further depressing effect on the Axis powers. The Japanese have been beaten, not once or twice, but three times by the U.S. Navy. In several combinations of sea battles which have followed the use of aircraft, Americans have shown a definite superiority over the enemy. Referring to the Japanese failure in the Solomons Battle, *The Daily Mail* says :

"The actions of the Coral Sea and Midway were long-range engagements, fought entirely by carrier-based aircraft. But the Solomons battle was a stand-up gun fight on both sides. It showed that battle squadrons are still the backbone of sea power."

The latest U.S. Navy department communique reports that slow American advance westward continues in Guadalcanar with air support.

The Axis, it may be pointed out, has met with failure at both ends, the Middle East and the Far East. The trump

(*Continued on page* 6.)

PRESTIGE

Working in a munition factory, a man got his coat caught in a revolving wheel.

He was whisked up and whirled round and round till the foreman managed to switch off the machine. The workman fell to the ground and up rushed the foreman.

"Speak to me, speak to me," he said.

"Why should I?" said the workman. "I passed you six times just now, and you didn't speak to me!"

The Mediterranean Master Plan

"*The story of the last five weeks reads like a fairy tale. Then we were facing a formidable foe, full of confidence. Now he is scattered seeking refuge at his old lair at El Agheila. Tobruk is avenged and will remain in our hands till the end of the war.*"

FIELD-MARSHAL SMUTS said these words soon after his arrival in Cairo from England by air on Saturday last. The story of the war in the Mediterranean theatre no doubt reads like a fairy tale, but was it the result of a wave of the wand ?

Commenting on the wonders that have been achieved in the last few weeks and how they have been worked out, *The Times* points out that operations from one end of the Mediterranean to the other proceed according to what may be fittingly described as a master plan. Massive in conception, the execution of this master plan, has been, the paper adds, marked by secrecy and skill, by timeliness and daring. The German High Command must have been, perhaps for the first time in this war, rudely surprised as much by the vigour as by the moment of the blow, and, says *The Times*, its own occupation of all that remained of France is a poor compensation for the plans now thrown violently into disarray.

Axis Plans Upset

How were these plans thrown into violent disarray ? The German High Command have, it is stated, made three fatal mistakes. Firstly, they allowed the British to bluff them into retaining an unnecessarily large force in Western Europe when a few extra divisions might have made a crucial difference to Rommel last summer ; secondly, they grossly underestimated the strength of General Montgomery's force, and thirdly, they have initiated a battle in Tunisia, which they have small prospect of winning.

It is of interest to note that the most vociferous propaganda for a Second Front was carried on by Goebbels and his gang, and they sought to spread the impression that Russia was dissatisfied and that something should be done by the Allies to remove that dissatisfaction. The curious part of it all was that they themselves became a victim to their own propaganda, and kept a very large army in Western Europe. The spectacular Dieppe raid further strengthened this belief that the opening of a Second Front to relieve the strain on Russia was in the offing. Britain gave the impression that Dieppe was the " dress rehearsal " and that the regular show would be put up in the near future. There are definite grounds for believing that Hitler was hoodwinked by this Second Front publicity and by the Commando raids on occupied France. Mr. Churchill himself has referred to " deceiving the enemy", but never misleading an ally. Events in Russia in the last few days particularly show that this deception of the enemy and the results that have followed from it have contributed to ease the situation. It is stated that a very large part of the *Luftwaffe* has left the Russian front and gone to Sicily and Sardinia.

The Passing of a Phrase

With regard to the phrase " Second Front " itself, it already seems to be falling into disuse. For it has by now been made very clear that the Mediterranean developments are the prelude to an eventual Continental offensive by the United Nations. Mr. Churchill has acknowledged the fact that the relegation of the Continental phase on purely military grounds, to a second place in the time-schedule of the United Nations, had caused disappointment to Russia, but M. Stalin has declared that in his conversation with Mr. Churchill, who conveyed to him in person an explanation of the position and the plan, " complete understanding was reached". This complete understanding on grand strategy and the Allied successes in North Africa may contribute to the gradual decline of a now largely meaningless usage.

It may be pointed out that the complete understanding on strategy in relation to the Mediterranean area of war was reached many months ago, the plans were developed in the strictest secrecy over a considerable time, and even the approximate date of the landings was known in London, Moscow, Cairo and Washington for more than two months previously. The secret was well kept, and the enemy who is noted for his elaborate systems of espionage had not the slightest inkling of what was afoot. In fact, some Frenchmen in North Africa itself were well acquainted with Allied plans, but not a word leaked out to Berlin !

Cunningham : From Alexandria to Washington

The nature of the brilliant long-term planning of the Allies will become clear when it is recalled that six months before he was appointed Supreme Commander of the United Nations naval forces in the Mediterranean and the North African Atlantic, Admiral Sir Andrew Browne Cunningham was posted from Alexandria to Washington as Chief of the British Admiralty Delegation. This happened in May last ; the purpose of his appointment was to enable him to co-ordinate his plans with those of the U. S. Navy Department. He was selected because of his intimate knowledge of Mediterranean waters and proved ability to co-operate with land and air forces. He became Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean three months before the war began, and

gained his reputation as the greatest British Commander afloat after Taranto and Matapan, two of the greatest naval battles of this war. It was in these two engagements that his use of air power as a catalyst to the action of sea power was shown in all its brilliance. His great experience in these mighty engagements was summed up by him on August 16, 1941, in these words :

> "*In future, my strongest recollection of the past year will be the lesson of co-operation. We three Services have come to know one another as never before, and that knowledge breeds strength.*"

It was this knowledge and strength that achieved the miracle of concentrating no less than 350 warships simultaneously in one small sector of the front which extends over all the seven seas. This was done without causing any inconvenience in, or interruption to, the routine duties of the British and American navies. This great Armada of 350 warships escorted more than 500 transport ships over distances ranging from 1,500 to 3,500 miles, and were at sea for periods of from seven to fifteen days and nights, but only one of them was sunk by enemy action ! What happened to the U-boats ? Were they looking for a stray ship or two in their new hunting-ground off Cape Town or waiting to intercept an Allied assault on Dakar, which Berlin said was "imminent," but which did not materialise ? Or were they frightened off by the immensity of the offensive power which protected the convoys ? Whatever it be, the fact remains that Admiral Cunningham achieved a very remarkable feat and contributed largely to the success of the American landing operations in North Africa.

Opening the Mediterranean

Let us examine the immediate results of the North African operations. The object of the Allies was not merely to gain vantage-ground from which they could open a new front against the Axis, but also to open the Mediterranean to Allied sea and air power. It is an obvious fact nowadays that there can be no sea power without air power, and in an enclosed sea like the Mediterranean, land-based air power must supplement carrier-borne air power. The importance of this was realised keenly in the series of naval operations undertaken in recent months in order to reinforce and supply Malta's garrison. The escorting forces required were large, but the quantity of supplies actually delivered was out of all proportion to these. This does not mean that Malta did not deserve the help, but the naval operations on that account were nonetheless wasteful from the point of view of strategy. The convoys to Malta relied for air-cover on aircraft-carriers and to some extent by the Malta-based planes. The Allies lacked land-bases to counter the enemy air-bases in Sardinia and Sicily.

Convoys to Malta

But now, thanks to patient and masterly planning and its brilliant execution, the Allies have acquired air bases all along the North African Coast from Oran to Bone, which is within 400 miles of Malta, and as a result of this, convoys to Malta will be having adequate land-based air cover throughout the thousand-mile voyage from Gibralter. The new naval bases at Oran and Algiers mean increased and intensified Allied naval patrol activity in Axis home waters. For instance, Naples is 975 miles distant from Gibralter, whereas from Algiers it is only 580 miles. Naval patrol ships from Algiers would, in future, be able to cruise in the neighbourhood of Naples. If further air-bases are acquired in Tunisia and Tripolitania, Allied convoys, protected by fighters, can do the whole 2,000-mile voyage from Gibralter to Alexandria with some ease. This means a great gain to the Allies, for all the supplies to the Middle East can come through the Mediterranean, instead of going all the way round the Cape.

Another advantage is the saving in shipping space caused by the shorter route. For instance, the distance from U.K. ports to Alexandria is less than 4,000 miles or one-third of the distance round the Cape to Suez. This shorter route means a direct saving of about two million tons of shipping space, equivalent to 16 months' output from U.K. shipyards. Convoys to Basra with Aid-to-Russia cargoes can be diverted to ports in Palestine and Syria, and then more shipping space will be saved.

"Going with a swing"!

These are some of the great advantages resulting from the planned strategy in the Mediterranean war zone. The future holds out the possibility of Africa being completely rid of the Axis and Italy coming under the cognisance of the R.A.F. in a greater measure than before. In the words of General Smuts,

> "*Africa will be cleared, and the whole world will be cleared of the enemy. Tunis is going, and pincers are coming together from both sides. Things are going with a swing.*"

The great war veteran and statesman addressing a parade of the South African Fighter Wing personnel further said that night had changed into day, the skies were clearing, and the Allies now saw daylight and vast opportunities were now springing up before them. It is the beginning of the end of the Axis.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page* 3.)

cards in South-West Pacific continue to remain in Allied hands—Kokoda in New Guinea and Henderson airfield in Guadalcanar. The enemy is bound to make strenuous efforts to regain them or neutralise them, but the Allies are watchful and vigilant.

* * * *

Great Turn in N. Africa : Montgomery's Triumph : Rommel's Blunder

Speaking at Cairo at a parade of the South African Fighter Wing General Smuts said that he had always held the view that North Africa would be the scene of a great turn and that recent events had justified it. Momentous happenings which are likely to turn the future course of the war as a whole have taken place in Egypt and are taking place in Libya. The victory of the Allies in Egypt has given the Axis a rude shock. It may be pointed out that the strategical implications of this victory are even greater than its immediate rewards. But what would have happened if Rommel, after realising the terrific hitting power behind General Montgomery's assault, had promptly withdrawn the bulk of his army at high speed to Tobruk ? In all probability, he could have postponed a decision and given the Allies a good deal of trouble. But he was feeling confident that his southern flank could not be turned, or orders might have come from Berlin inducing him to commit the whole of his forces to the defence of his forward positions.

As things stood, General Montgomery was faced with the formidable task of hammering a path right through the massed forces of Rommel's Afrika Korps, which were holding positions fortified for months past with every dev ce known to modern war. In the formidable task itse f lay a great opportunity, the opportun ty to effect a break-through, which, once effected, would be a catastrophe for the defenders. But Rommel relied on the power of his counter-attacks by panzar formations to break off the spearhead of each British thrust and so wear down the offensive, but this reliance was misplaced.

Rommel's Previous Retreats Compared : Battle of Tunisia on

What happened was that the Axis army was dissolved in a gigantic swirling tank battle and its line of retreat became a road of destruction. Remnants of the Afrika Korps tried to make a stand near Fuka, at Mersa Matruh, and at El Adem, but in vain. Rommel's previous retreats had this advantage : he was able to go back far and fast and gain time to regroup, re-supply and be ready to meet his opponents when they came near. But this time this could not be done by a force that was handicapped for want of transport. Five Italian infantry divisions were abandoned by the Germans without transport or supplies, even as in the last war the Turks were abandoned by the Germans when Allenby broke through in the plain of Jezreel.

The Eighth Army has, said Mr. Churchill, avenged Tobruk. It has pursued the beaten foe very far. Now its task as well as the task of other Allied forces co-operating with it is to eliminate the enemy from Africa altogether. There are three favourable factors in favour of Allies. They have air superiority, shorter supply routes and more petrol than the Axis forces. The battle of Tunisia has to be fought out, and its course will be watched with the greatest interest.

Speaking in the House of Commons on Wednesday, Mr. Eden, Foreign Secretary, said that the battle in North Africa was in an extremely critical phase, and that the First British Army strongly supported by American forces were making their way eastward over enormous distances with the greatest speed and that French troops in Tunisia were vigorously resisting the German and Italian invaders.

MADRASIS ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

Madrasi soldiers who are serving away from their own districts are not forgotten by "the old folks at home".

A recent month's despatch of Madras specialities to its sons in uniform included 92,500 "beedis" 25,000 "poppadums," 625 lb. of cashew nuts, 21 doz. bottles of Madras pickles, four cases of books and papers, and 220 gramophone records.

Authority on Strategy and Tactics

General "Ike" Eisenhower

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL Dwight Eisenhower (who is now Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces in North Africa) is probably one of the best-loved soldiers in the American Army. He has been a fighting man since 1915, but until now the breaks have kept him from actual combat. He barely missed the last war. He was supposed to sail for France on November 12 but got crossed up by the Armistice on the 11th.

General "Ike" (his boyhood nickname) is the son of a Quaker family in Kansas. His father, a farmer and ice-maker, was a strict disciplinarian. "Ike" was the third of six brothers. The Eisenhower's mother, now 81 years old, lives in Abilene, Kansas.

"Ike" was a good cook as a boy, but no sissy. A good athlete, he played football and baseball at West Point until his leg was broken in a football game. He was an average student at West Point, but after his graduation he became an omnivorous reader and student of military science and later an authority on mechanized warfare. He graduated with top honours from the Army War College in Washington and from the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth. To-day he is a recognized authority on strategy and tactics.

In 1940 Eisenhower was made Chief of Staff of the Third Army. When the United States entered the war, he was made Chief of War Plans. Some time ago he went to Britain as Commander-in-Chief of the American forces.

General Eisenhower is well-liked by both officers and soldiers. He knows when to be tough. He hates indecision and mistakes. When aroused, he has a razor-sharp tongue. He is generally considered a brilliant conversationalist. A good mixer and bridge player, he still likes to cook.

General Eisenhower's wife Mamie lives in Washington. Their first son died. Their second son is now a second-year man at West Point.

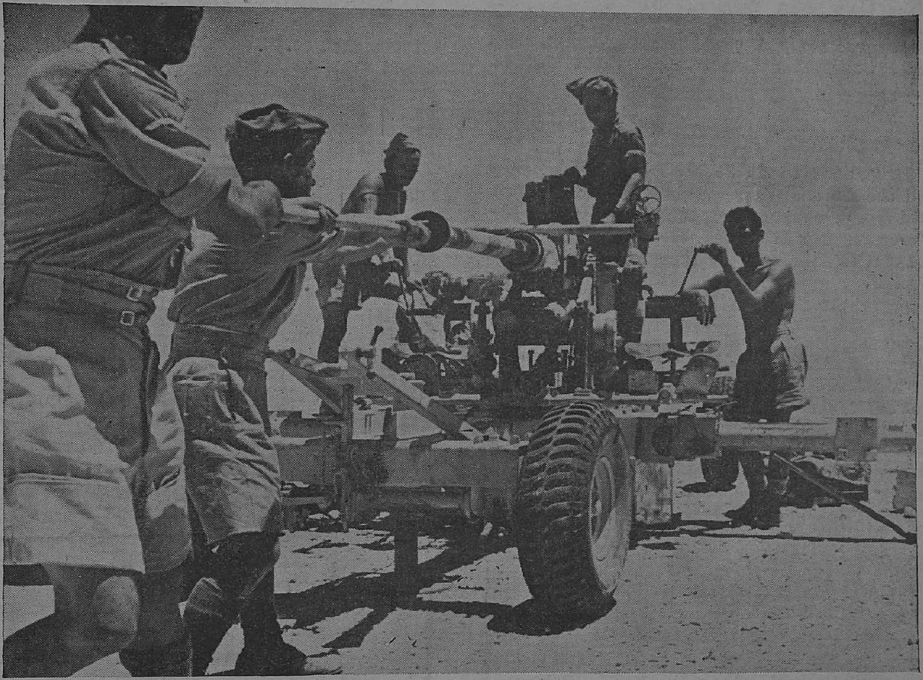


Photo shows gunners of the Light A.A. Regiment in Egypt, who might have had a hand in forcing the non-stop retreat of Rommel's forces. They have a record of ten enemy planes in two weeks and are taking care of the guns which "did the trick"!

OTHER AMERICAN GENERALS

Major-General Clark

Major-General Mark W. Clark, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces in North Africa, has been in command of American Ground Forces in the European war theatre since May. He has also been General Eisenhower's Chief of Staff in London. He is an infantry warfare specialist.

General Clark graduated from West Point in 1917, serving with the Supply Services in France, Belgium and Germany in the last war. He was awarded the oldest American military decoration, the Purple Heart.

General Clark did post-graduate work at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia; at the Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and at the Army War College in Washington.

He was a member of the staff at the Army War College until he received the European assignment.

Brigadier-General Doolittle

Brigadier-General James H. Doolittle, who led the American air raid on Tokyo last April and is now commanding the United States Air Forces in North Africa, is a veteran of two wars who won aviation fame in peacetime as a pilot.

General Doolittle was born in Alameda, California, on December 14, 1896. In World War I, he served as a flight gunnery instructor at air training centres in the United States. In September 1922, he made the first cross-country flight from Florida to California and won the Congressional Medal and international fame.

He won the Schneider Trophy Race and the Mackay Trophy in 1925, then travelled in South America giving demonstration flights in 1926. He broke both his ankles in Chile, but demonstrated his plane with his ankles in a cast. While an army flyer, he made several more trips to South America and won the Harmon Air Trophy in 1930. He resigned from the Army in 1930 and became Aviation Manager of the Shell Oil Company.

In 1940, General Doolittle returned to the Army as a Major in the Air Corps Reserve. He supervised aviation procurement in *Indianapolis* and later supervised the conversion of automobile plants to aircraft production in Detroit.

General Doolittle arrived in London on August 17, four months after the Tokyo raid. Some of the flyers of his squadron in the Tokyo raid joined him in London and are now supporting the American forces in North Africa.

The following are brief biographies of some of the American military and naval chiefs in North Africa:—

Major-General Patton

Major-General George S. Patton, Jr., Commander of American Forces landing on the west coast of Africa, is a noted exponent of tank warfare who organized and commanded the first American tank brigade in the last war. He recently taught American troops the type of fighting which is now underway on the Egyptian front. Born at Sea Gabriel, California, in 1885, he graduated from West Point and in World War I on foot led a tank brigade into the Meuse-Argonne offensive. After the war, he commanded a tank brigade, then a horse cavalry unit, but returned to tanks in July 1940. General Patton was an Olympics swimming champion in 1912.

Rear-Admiral Hewett

Rear-Admiral Henry K. Hewett, Commander of American Naval Forces, was the Captain of the cruiser *Indianapolis* on President Roosevelt's South American tour in 1936. He was born in Hackensack, New Jersey, in 1887. He won the Navy Cross for Distinguished Service in the last war for convoying troops and supplies successfully through dangerous waters. After the war Admiral Hewett taught at Annapolis and at the Naval War College.

Major-General Ryder

Major-General Charles W. Ryder, Commander of American Forces landing at Algiers, served in the infantry in the last war. He won the Distinguished Service Cross with an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Silver Heart, the Purple Heart, the Croix de Guerre with Palm, and was awarded a membership in the Legion d'Honneur. He was with the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department from 1934 to 1937 and then served as Commandant of Cadets at West Point.

Britain Impresses

"I was impressed by the way every citizen in Britain fitted into a necessary war function after special training by the Government or by private industry."

—MRS. ROOSEVELT, *at a Press Conference in Washington after her return from Britain.*

Objects of American Landings

◆

ALLIED operations in North Africa can be divided into two spheres, writes the *Daily Telegraph* correspondent, recently returned from North Africa.

For the moment landings in Morocco and Algeria may be thought of as having two distinct immediate objectives. Morocco is a protectorate with its own Sultan and Government, and Algeria is an integral part of France, in theory at least as much a part of France as the Isle of Wight is a part of Britain. The Atlantic coast of Morocco is for the most part flat and presents no great obstacles to landing operations.

All the main ports seem to have been occupied with the exception of Mogador. Safi lies to the south of Casablanca. Casablanca itself with its magnificent modern port is the largest town in North Africa outside of Egypt. Fedhala, north of Casabianca, is a smallish place with important fish canneries. Kasbabouznika and Mehdia (not to be confounded with Medhia on the east coast of Tunisia) are all points on lines of communication, which in Morocco in addition to excellent roads consist of a normal gauge double-track railway. This runs from Marrakesh in the south of the country via Casablanca, the principal port, Rabat, the capital; Meknes, Fez, Taza and Oujda just beyond which it joins the Algerian railway system. In fact there is an effective railway link between southern Morocco through Algeria and Tunisia.

MOROCCO'S LIFE-LINE CUT

The only obstacle to the intensive use of the lines is the comparative lack of fuel. By their occupation of Morocco's life-line the Allies have cut land communications with Dakar, which is joined to Casablanca by a 1,800-mile road, mostly a desert track.

Operations in Algeria constitute a more immediate threat to the whole Axis military position. Algeria is a mountainous country. In most places its Mediterranean coast is precipitous and steep.

The communications, however—although all from east to west—are excellent. The main railway which runs just back from the coast goes as far as Algiers, then continues along the shore into northern Tunisia.

Allied forces seem to have attacked or occupied the most strategic points along the Mediterranean from Arzeu, just near Oran to Mostaganem. Sidi Ferruch, where the French Expeditionary Force which conquered Algeria in 1830 landed, 30 miles east of Algiers, has been occupied by American troops. It is clear, therefore, that vital communications in Algeria are either in Allied hands, or are about to fall in them.

East of the Algiers City, a coast railway and two main roads into Tunisia afford ample opportunity of swift advance into the vital Tunisian area. It cannot be doubted that the occupation of Tunisia is the main objective of the Allies. Northern Tunisia may be taken as a geographical extension of Algeria.

BIZERTA

Bizerta is perhaps the finest harbour in the whole of the Mediterranean. From the extremity of Cape Bon, just south-east of Tunia City, it is but 90 miles to the shores of Sicily. To the south of Tunis itself there is not only a double-track narrow gauge line with electric locomotives running as far south as Gabes, but the eastern portion of Tunisia, being a flat plain is covered with a network of excellent roads. It is a 5-hour run from Tunis to Gabes. From there, there are good roads to Mareth, and a line 30 miles wide from the last spurs of the North Africa mountain system to the sea. The line was heavily fortified although it was, under the armistice terms, to be dismantled and it is still susceptible of making an effective barrier to an advance from the south-east.

Beyond Ben Gardane, the road is not so good. The French have never wanted to make it easy for the Italians to invade Tunisia. But it is perfectly manageable as far as Bou Chemmesc, the Italian frontier post. From there through Zuara and Sabratha, a first-class tarmac runs into Tripoli and through it to the Egyptian frontier. It is a matter of five hours' run or less from Tripoli to Ben Gardane.

'Not a Single Soldier Lost'

◆

Wes Gallagher, correspondent of the American Associated Press, reports that Admiral Cunningham, Commander of the Allied fleet which supported the North African landings, said: "I believe I am correct in saying that the British and American navies brought this vast force of troops to their assault points without a single soldier being lost at sea."

Significance of Allied Success in Egypt

BY

WICKHAM STEED

THE British and Allied victory in Egypt is the best thing that has happened for a long time. It may turn out to be as important as the Russian stand before Moscow last December, which converted Hitler's offensive into a frost-bitten defensive, and brought the German armies to the verge of disaster.

Militarily, and above all, psychologically, the splendid deeds of the Eighth Army may have consequences even more far-reaching than those of the German failure in Russia 11 months ago. For the first time since this war began a strong enemy army, entrenched in depth on a comparatively narrow front, has been routed by frontal attack in a pitched battle.

REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT

This would, in any event, have been a remarkable achievement, but when it is remembered that the enemy could be supplied and reinforced from a base in Italy, and from secondary bases in Greece and Crete that were near to the scene of action, whereas the British and Allied forces had to be transported and supplied by sea routes 12,000 miles long, the achievement becomes more remarkable still.

Much, of course, may depend upon the way in which this initial victory can be followed up by the effective destruction of the enemy's power in North Africa. We shall know before long, how far it has been possible to do this. A good deal of it seems already to have been done. For the moment, what interests me most are the moral or psychological effects of the victory throughout the Middle East, in the Mediterranean, in Italy, the Balkans and among all the satellites of the Axis.

EFFECT ON SATELLITES

I said something recently of the imponderables in war, which as Bismarck clearly understood, may weigh heavier than the heaviest armour. Hitler had staked everything on a swift victory by overwhelming force and I thought that a stage had already been reached in which overwhelming force would no longer be on the side of the enemy. This was my conclusion as an observer at some distance from the actual fighting.

It did not follow that Hitler's satellites, or even neutral countries still threatened by German power, would have reached the same conclusion. But now the victory in Egypt will give a jolt to their imaginations, and will weaken their belief in German invincibility, if it does not immediately convince them that Germany is doomed to total defeat.

There will be a change in the set of their feathers. It will become more noticeable in the near future, and I should not be surprised

Controlled Materials Plan

"During the coming year we shall produce in military goods alone more than the entire nation produced for all purposes during the biggest peacetime boom year. We are fighting an enemy who does not care what happens to his own business people, his own industrialists, his own labour or indeed to any single right or privilege which any of his people may have been lucky enough to have retained . . . We are going to beat him but we cannot without stripping for action, and we have still a long way to go . . . We are fighting to maintain a way of life based on the greatest possible degree of plenty for the greatest possible number of people. We have evolved a new method of distributing materials to war plants, that is going to be essential in civilian economy. This new plan, called the 'Controlled Materials Plan', will ensure that materials will be distributed to spots where they will be needed on time and in the proper quantity."

—MR. DONALD NELSON, *Chairman,*
U.S. War Production Board, in a recent speech.

if the change were noticeable in places, as far apart as Japan, Vichy France and French North Africa. In Italy we may be sure that Mussolini has got one of the worst headaches he has ever had.

It is especially good that the great news from Egypt should have coincided with the capture of Kokoda by the gallant Australians in New Guinea; with the successful defence of the Solomons by the United States; and with the failure of desperate, and perhaps despairing, German attacks at Stalingrad. Not even the limited German gains in the Caucasus would have availed to temper the disappointment and gloom in Germany.

There had been some talk of appointing Rommel to be Commander-in-Chief of the whole German Army under Hitler. He was given a huge ovation when he attended Hitler's "Winter Help" harangue in Berlin a few weeks ago. And on October 3 he said proudly to representatives of the Press: "The gateway of Egypt is in our grasp—our intention is to act." He could hardly have meant that his action would be to skidaddle westwards, away from the gate of Egypt, with the Eighth Army at his heels. So his chances of becoming Hitler's Commander-in-Chief may to-day be fainter.

R.A.F. "KILLS" A SUPPLY TRAIN

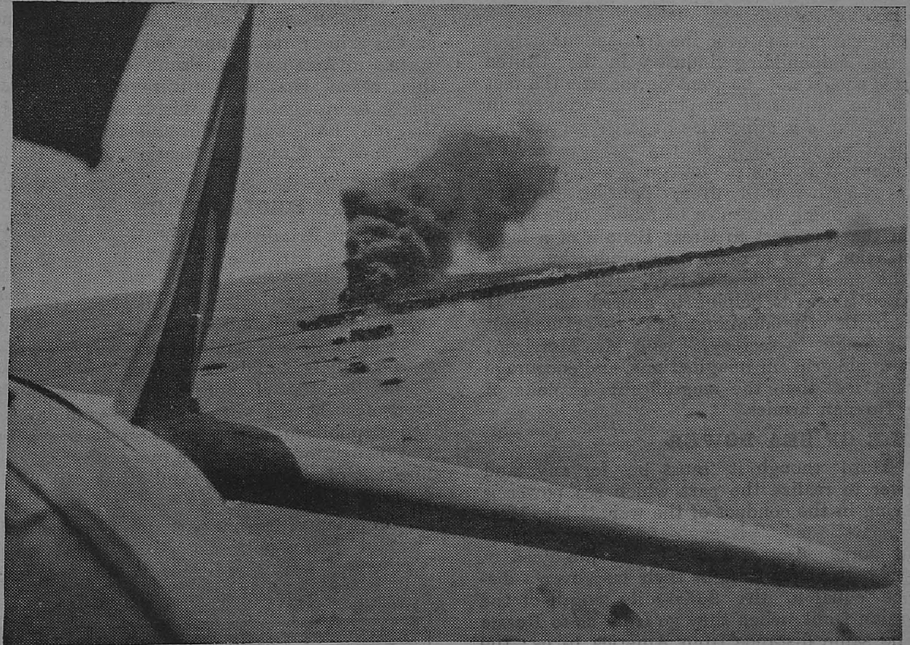


Photo shows an Axis supply train in Libya with 26 trucks left shattered and burning after an attack by the R.A.F. An ammunition truck was blown to pieces and the locomotive set on fire, as the fighters, flying low, raked the train, time after time, with fire from their cannon.

ROMMEL'S DISCOMFITURE

Outside the concentration camps, in which the Nazis keep and outrageously maltreat their German victims, I can think of only one quarter in the Third Reich where something like malicious satisfaction will be felt at the discomfiture of Rommel. This quarter is among the Field Marshals and Generals of the older Prussian military caste, who look upon Rommel as a Nazi guttersnipe, whom Hitler has been delighted to honour.

CONCEIVABLE CONSEQUENCES

But till we know how far, and with what effect, the brilliant victory of the Eighth Army can be followed up, it would be premature to speculate over-much upon its conceivable consequences. Anything like the complete destruction of enemy power in North Africa might, indeed, open the Mediterranean once more to Allied shipping.

The latest victory over French and Allied interests by the wretched Laval—the handing

over to the Axis of 35 Allied merchant vessels detained in French Mediterranean ports—this would be of small account, and German designs to get hold of French North Africa might be hampered or upset.

These desirable, yet still uncertain developments, ought not, however, to blind us to the silent worldwide victory over space and danger that now has already been won by British sea power.

BRITISH PRODUCTION

Mr. Herbert Morrison, Home Secretary, and Minister of Home Security, did well to draw a picture of this victory the other day, for the enlightenment of our friends and of ourselves. He pointed out that Great Britain, with only 45,000,000 inhabitants, has achieved a war output per head of population, greater than that of any country in the world—Allied or enemy.

Our enthusiasm over the tremendous output of the shipbuilding industry in the United States should not, he went on, belittle the fact that the output of shipbuilding workers in British yards is still twice as large per worker as that of any other country. Moreover, 80 per cent of British production is shipped overseas, together with every fighting man for whom shipping space can be found, quite apart from the transport to Great Britain of a high proportion of American war production, and of the unceasing flow of food with which the United States is helping to nourish us. "If this battle of production and transport had not to be fought in secrecy," said Mr. Morrison, "it would grip our imaginations, and encourage us not less than the magnificent exploits of the Russian armies.

ROLE OF SEA POWER

"Hard though it must be for any land power to realize the part which sea power is playing in the conduct of the war," Mr. Morrison continued, "it ought to be remembered that tanks, aircraft and oil, the life-blood of them both, have to fight their way over a distance equal to the 2,000-mile length of the Russian front, when they go from us to Russia —the same distance from America to us; the same distance from us to Malta, and over five times the length of the vast Russian front, when they go from us round the Cape to the Middle East.

"The British Navy is regularly patrolling over 80,000 miles of trade routes, besides keeping guard over the 2,000 or 3,000 British and Allied merchant vessels, which are always at sea. It sweeps mines from over 14,000 miles of sea lanes; its warships and the aircraft of the Fleet and the Royal Air Force have escorted over 120,000 voyages in convoy, and have brought safely to port 199 out of every 200 ships in these convoys. It has swept the enemy from the high seas, and destroyed, captured or damaged more than 125 enemy warships, and over 6,000,000 tons of enemy merchant shipping."

PATTERN OF WAR

"So," Mr. Morrison concluded, "it is a superficial and misguided view to imagine that Britain is only playing a marginal part in the present phase of the war. If you look at the pattern of the war as a whole, and remember the real meaning of the never-ceasing struggle at sea we may begin to realize that the part we are playing on the stage of world conflict is as near to the heart of achievement and the centre of action, as ever it was in the days when we stood alone."

Mr. Morrison spoke before the gladdening tidings of victory had come from Egypt, yet what he said is helpful as a reminder of the things our shipping may do, if the victory of the Eighth Army should set free a proportion of it for work in other directions. Hitler knows well that these other directions would hardly run toward any strengthening of his grip upon the occupied countries of Europe, or indeed on the grip of Japan upon her provisional conquests in Asia and the Pacific, and if only for this reason, the discomfiture of Rommel is likely to mitigate any misplaced satisfaction that may be felt in Berlin and Tokyo over the results of the November elections in the United States.

HOOVER'S DECLARATION

In Great Britain, we view those results with a strictly impartial eye. We look upon the whole people of the United States as our ally, and not any particular section of it. Grateful as we have been and are for President Roosevelt's splendid leadership in this war, we accept with complete confidence ex-President Hoover's declaration that if there was a strong element of protest in the vote cast for candidates of the Republican Party, the protest was a protest of insistence upon the more effective organization of the war. And that can be no comfort to the enemy.

The enemy, for his part, may rejoice at the thought that a portion of the United States electorate has given the "war-monger".

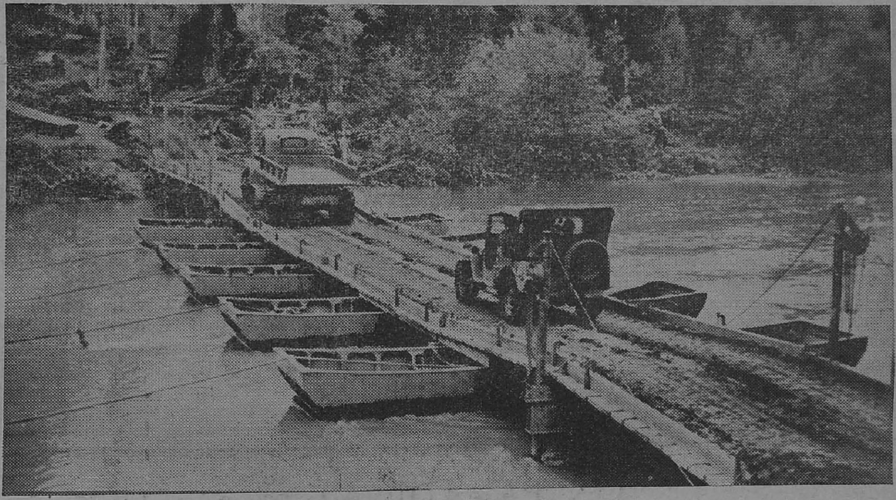
(*Continued on page* 14.)

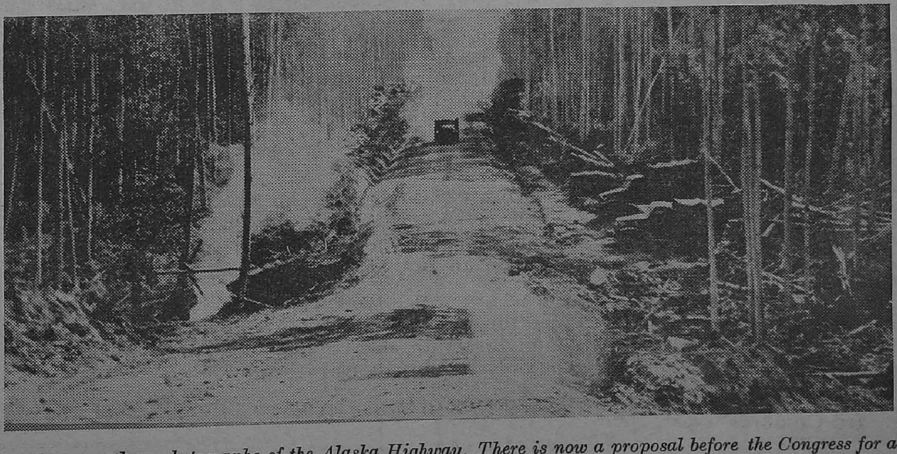
Speed and Save

"Every day by which we speed victory we save our young men for work of construction."

—*International Youth Conference declaration.*

THE ALASKA HIGHWAY





Above are three photographs of the Alaska Highway. There is now a proposal before the Congress for a second highway linking the United States and Alaska, and this has been endorsed by the Secretary of the Interior. The idea is to have a direct highway connection between the West Coast and Alaska. The route proposed is about 125 miles inland from the coast. It would be linked with the present highway.

SIGNIFICANCE OF ALLIED SUCCESS IN EGYPT

(*Continued from page 12.*)

Roosevelt a slap in the face, just as the enemy might rejoice if any considerable number of by-elections in Great Britain were to go against the war-monger," Churchill. What the enemy does not understand is that in the United States as in Great Britain, this war is a people's war, not a war of Government or dictators; not an imperialistic venture, and that the common people mean to see it through until so complete a victory has been gained over the forces of oppression and enslavement that the world can again be a place, or rather a better place, for free peoples to live free lives in.

MID-TERM ELECTION

Speaking personally, and without any title or desire to interpret British public opinion, I think it is not a bad thing that the critics of President Roosevelt's Administration should now be enabled to bear a fuller share of responsibilities for the conduct of the war. I think it good, too, that this mid-term election should have been held while war is still being waged, and not, as was the case in November 1918, when victory had been won and the Armistice was in sight.

The defeat which President Wilson suffered in the election of November 1918, created a situation so ambiguous that it led to serious misunderstanding of the position in America by more than one Allied people and Government. This misunderstanding was not least among the causes of European surprise, that President Wilson should have been unable to secure ratification of the Peace Treaty, and American membership of the League of Nations.

NO COMFORT FOR ENEMY

In Europe, he had been welcomed as the First Citizen of the world, at a time when his own people were doubting whether he was fully representative of them as the First Citizen of the United States. Now there could be no room for doubt that the Republican as well as the Democratic Party stands behind the President for a vigorous prosecution of the war, and that whatever contribution the United States may make to a progressive solution of the problems of peace, will reflect the views and the feelings of the American people as a whole.

So, in the long run, as well as in the short run, I am inclined to agree with ex-President Hoover that there can be no comfort for the enemy in the outcome of the 1942 mid-term elections.

I have a notion that in the weeks and months to come, the enemy in Europe and Africa, no less than in the South-Western Pacific and the Far East, will sorely need every scrap of comfort he can extract from a threatening, and presently a disastrous situation. Hitherto one thing has been lacking in the discomfort which, from the bottom of my heart, I wish him to experience in full measure. Until now, the enemy had not felt the impact of unquestionable military defeat, in a fair field without favour.

Now he has felt it. May he continue to feel it, until he cries "Hold, enough," and the United Nations answer his cry by beating him remorselessly to the ground.

—*In a recent B.B.C. talk.*

ON PARADE AT 92

This old soldier when he reaches the age of 92, puts on his uniform again, travels 30 miles,—and goes on parade.

Jemadar Ismail Khan with many other Indian Officers of the old Madras Army, attended the official opening of the Training Centre of the 3rd Madras Regiment.

He became young in heart again when he heard the familiar words of command and the call of the bugle—so young that he went on to the sports, ate the splendid tea in the Indian Officer's Mess and would'nt have missed any of it for anything.

The opening of the centre, which was attended by the Governor of Madras celebrated the reconstruction of the old 3rd Madras Regiment, after a lapse of 15 years. The day was the anniversary of the famous victory of Assaye, when the Madras Battalions were the only Indian troops present.

Supreme moment was the handing over to the 'new' Regiment of the old 3rd Colours.

Libyan Campaign in New Perspective

◆

THE announcement of American landings in Algeria and Morocco places in a new perspective the meaning of General Alexander's great victory over Rommel writes *The Times*. It shows at once, how vast were the issues that hung upon the attack of the Eighth Army and how complete was the confidence reposed in it; for it is obvious that the latest operation must have been planned far ahead in expectation of just such a defeat as has been inflicted on the Axis power in Egypt.

It is the culmination of a strategic process which has been in motion with many vicissitudes of fortune for more than two years and which in its course has been compelled to embrace the whole of the continent of Africa. It has included the most completely successful campaign waged by any Allied army in this war which resulted in the liberation of Ethiopia and the total overthrow of Mussolini's East African Empire; the maintenance of the supply route, 14,000 miles long around the continent, and the transport over that great distance of multitudinous necessities of mechanized war with which General Alexander was to achieve his resounding success; and such episodes as the occupation of Madagascar by the British and Liberia by American troops which were incidental to the protection of that route.

RE-OPENING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

Now all lines of African strategy converge upon the supreme objective that gives its meaning and justifies all the sacrifices that have been made for the mastery of this continent. This objective is the reopening of the sea way of the Mediterranean to the traffic of the United Nations—a way of double possibilities. For it is of the highest importance to substitute a short passage from Gibraltar to Asen for the long journey round the Cape into the Indian Ocean and so give relief throughout the world to the extreme strain that has been imposed on Allied sea power.

The prospects are now opening of establishing Allied power along the whole coast of North Africa so as to confront across the comparatively narrow sea all the southern shore of enslaved Europe and threaten by many possible routes the ultimate blows at the heart of Germany. Events are now marching with such speed that few can have foreseen the attainment of this objective. The means to achieve it is the total destruction of the Axis power in North Africa.

The basis of enemy's military strength there was Rommel's mechanized army in the desert. This has been struck shattering blows. Leaving the Italian infantry to its fate, the remnant of the panzer divisions is still in headlong retreat. Meanwhile the principal supply port of Genoa on which the enemy depends for survival is being battered by the Royal Air Force and heavy toll is taken of such ships as still attempt the Mediterranean crossing.

A FRESH BLOW

Now while the structure of the Axis power in North Africa is swaying at last, a fresh blow is struck against the German political domination of French territories to the west. The enemy has been aware for some time of the assembly of a formidable fleet of warships and transport at Gibraltar and has not concealed perturbation. He was not, however, able to forecast the time and place of the coming blow; or if he was, he knew himself that he was powerless to forestall it. The Italian fleet, for instance, has conspicuously refrained from any attempt to intervene which may be an admission of the irresistible power of the Allied naval armament.

To equip this great force is in itself a notable achievement at the end of a year in which Allied production and shipping had been so severely taxed to maintain the supply of materials of war both round the north Cape to Russia and round the Cape of Good Hope to Alexandria.

Egypt and Britain

"Egypt has been able to realise how much the representatives of the British Government and forces understand Egypt's viewpoints in respect of the sovereignty and independence of the country and value Egypt's rights and interests."

—MR. NAHAS PASHA, *at the Egyptian Parliament.*

Bizerta and Beyond

AXIS counter-action has yet to reach its peak. The importance of Bizerta is as well understood in Berlin and Rome as in London and Washington. Its immediate importance is as a point of rallying and escape for Rommel's broken and fleeing forces—"advancing to the west" as the latest German euphemism puts it. Virginio Gayda, who has served Mussolini so long as mouthpiece, sounds the alarm but also states facts when he says that Allied operations in the Mediterranean threaten the whole Axis.

Outside the Axis, the military and psychological effects of the events in Africa have been wholly encouraging and have afforded a fresh stimulus to the sense of common destiny and common effort binding together the great company of United Nations. Stalin, with the sure strategical insight which he has shown ever since the German attack on his country, and with the hard realism which has throughout marked his own political career, has in a few sentences explained to the Russians what the new battle of the Mediterranean means to them and to total victory. His statement is telling and forthright.

When, in his recent report to Parliament, Mr. Churchill spoke of the sense of frustration at the absence of a second front while the Russians were bearing an almost unbearable burden on land, he was expressing the true sentiment of the nation—a sentiment reinforced by the British people's recollection of their own hard fight when they held the breach alone. Stalin has dispelled lurking suspicion and created among the Russian people a clear consciousness of the magnitude of what is now on foot in Africa. He truly sees the Anglo-American offensive as a major operation among the results of which will be an easing of pressure on the Russian front, the possibility of forcing Italy out of the war by a decisive blow and the setting-up of necessary conditions for a second front "nearer Germany's vital centres". Finally he gives assurance of the certainty—of which Russia's proved services and sacrifices are ample and unimpeachable testimony—that Russia herself "will fulfil her task with honour" when the moment comes, as come it will, for her to join her own offensive action with that of her allies.

Recovery by the United Nations of command of the Mediterranean is a vital preliminary to those further and still more powerful blows which they will have to strike in common before the enemy is laid low—*The Times*.

Indians' Part in Defence of British Isles

MEN and women from India and other Eastern countries are now playing an active—in some cases a prominent—part in the defence of the British Isles, reports the Arab News Agency.

Several hundred, particularly women, are giving their services in a civilian capacity, but there are many more men from the East in the fighting forces in British than is generally known.

The Royal Air Force has been a great attraction for young men who were students in England when the war broke out. Many have been outstandingly successful in the air and about 40 have been commissioned from the ranks of the Royal Air Force.

A remarkable reputation has been gained by the Indian Pioneer Corps in Britain composed principally of students, seamen and others to whom a life in khaki appealed. All receive British service rates of pay, and when the Luftwaffe harried London they earned every penny of it.

Accustomed to working without heavy gear, they astonished the more orthodox British Pioneers by the speed with which they cleared away awkward debris. They won such a reputation that it was common place for them to be assigned to tasks where the introduction of heavy clearance machinery was impracticable.

Many doctors from India are serving in the R.A.M.C. Numbers of students unable to return to their own countries have undergone Government engineering courses and the majority are now earning an average of £7 a week in munition factories.

Organizations which in peacetime had frequently to assist needy students report that they have had no call on their funds for a long time, as all those in whom they take a beneficient interest are earning good money and are far removed from financial stringency.

So far there is only one girl from the East in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. She is from India. But there are hundreds in the fire-fighting, nursing and comfort-distributing organizations. These women did especially fine work during the London and Liverpool blitzes when they operated in bands, usually under the direction of male relatives who are doctors or medical students.

A Madras Battalion on the N.W. Frontier

(*From a Correspondent*)

A very pleasant function took place in the V.C.O.s' Club of the 3rd Madras Regiment a few days ago to bid farewell to two senior V.C.Os. whose excellent services have been rewarded by their being sent shortly to Dehra Dun to qualify for an emergency commission. They are Subedar Major K. C. Govindan and Subedar K. O. Kunni Raman Nambiar.

All the officers of the battalion were present as also the British officers' wives, and although socially enjoyable, it was a very sad day for the battalion. Whilst tea was being served, the departing V.C.Os. and the senior officers and their wives were garlanded. The sunset glow on the hills across from the V.C.O.s' Club typified the closing of the services of those two distinguished Indian Officers as V.C.Os.

Subedar Neelambaran in well-chosen terms eulogised the services of his departing brother officers, and the outstanding ability of the Subedar-Major in guiding and advising the junior officers in a very tactful but firm manner.

The Commandant referred to the help he had always received from these two officers in the difficult task of virtually raising a new battalion. He wished them, on behalf of all present, the best of luck in their new venture.

The departing officers in very able speeches thanked the gathering for their good wishes and affirmed their intention of returning, so far as it lay in their power, to their present unit.

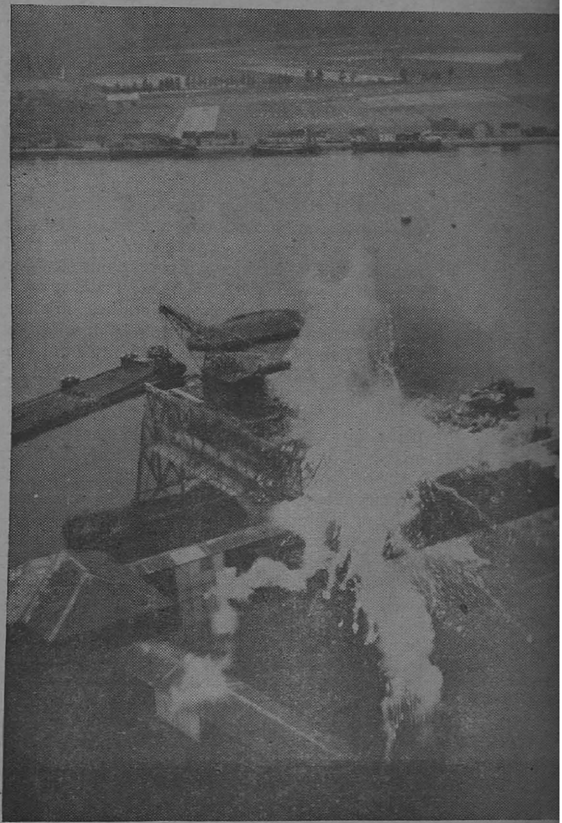
Subedar-Major Govindan is the second senior in service of the remaining personnel of the 12th Malabar Battalion from which territorial unit the battalion was formed. He joined the 12th Malabar Battalion in 1931, and has been Subedar-Major for the last seven months.

Subedar Nambiar joined the 12th Malabar Battalion in 1932 and like the Subedar-Major was embodied with the battalion in September 1940.

The function terminated all too soon by the necessity of the married officers having to leave the battalion hutted camp and re-enter the main perimeter before sunset. A hearty farewell was taken of the two guests of honour.

TWO GALLANT ACTS

Meanwhile, the battalion is learning as quickly as possible its role among the frontier hills. Two recent instances of galantry bear witness to the spirit which animates the battalion and which will enable them to deal effectively with the enemy. On the afternoon of 2nd November Sepoy M. Subbiah Pillai of "B" company showed great presence of mind and disregard of danger when line sentry over a gate on the road leading down from the battalion camp. Two mules in an A.T. cart took fright and bolted down the hill and Sepoy Subbiah Pillai, in the nick of time, managed single-handed to drag a knife rest across the road and stop the runaways. But for his coolness, the mules might have caused much damage to life and property in the station. Sepoy Subbiah Pillai is a Tamilian from Anaikulam village in Tinnevelly district.



A Boston of Bomber Command R.A.F. which recently made an unescorted attack in daylight on objectives at Sluiskil, an inland port in South West Holland, returned with photograph showing bombing from roof-top height. Photo shows remarkable close-up of bomb explosion.

Just before the unit recently left Kohat, Sepoy Selvam of the Pioneer P-1 displayed ingenuity and bravery in dealing with a rabid dog which attacked him. Although unarmed and bitten in the process he managed to seize the animal by the hind legs and continued swinging it around his head till he reached a convenient wall against which to dash it and kill it. Sepoy Selvam, aged only 18, is a Christian from Venganthur village in South Arcot district. His gallant act prevented other jawans from incurring possible injury and a spell in hospital such as he is himself undergoing at present.

Behind the Enemy Lines in Russia

BY

Y. CHERNUKHIN

"BEHIND the Enemy Lines," the first book of the Soviet war correspondent, A. Polyakov, was translated into English and received a warm reception in Great Britain and the United States. The Soviet Writers' Publishing House has just published a new book by Polyakov, "White Mammoths."

The "White Mammoths" are the Soviet fifty-ton "KV" heavy tanks. Their armour-plating can withstand any amount of enemy shells and is invulnerable even to German land mines. "KV" tanks can simply cut straight through the woods, crush enemy artillery batteries and armoured cars, reducing them to mere slabs of metal. Polyakov's new book tells the story of five of these titanic machines from the day they left the large tank works in the Urals.

He also tells you about their builders, the plant director, the Assistant Peoples' Commissar of the tank industry, Hero of Socialist Labour, Yaltsman and the daughter of the famous Russian military leader, once the Peoples' Commissar of Defence, M. Frunze. Tatyana Frunze is now a military technician employed in the plant's laboratory. He tells you the story of youthful Kostya Vladek, the twelve-year old apprentice, who is proud of his job of cutting tiny bolts for tank parts. Kostya, too, is a tank builder. Neighbouring the plant is the tank training school. The future crew of each tank is attached to the machine when it is only in the stage of metal framework and together with the workers', help, build and assemble the vehicle.

One of the most stirring pages in Polyakov's books is the description of a meeting between fresh tank corps recruits and veteran front-line fighters. Among the latter one tells the new-comers about Major Segeda who commanded several important tank operations, Senior Sergeant Nydin, an artillery gun commander who disposed of eleven enemy tanks.

TANK SEES 40 ATTACKS

There was also the tank driver, Sergeant Tsekalov who saw his machine through forty attacks. His tank received 212 direct hits, but even the biggest shells failed to do anything more than dent the armour. The author introduces Junior Sergeant Gordeyev, the "master of ramming tactics." Here is a brief description of one of Gordeyev's numerous exploits. During an engagement his tank broke into a village occupied by the enemy and crushed two German field pieces. But there were two more concealed behind a stone wall. The village street was too narrow for the tank to manœuvre and reach the guns. Gordeyev put his machine in reverse, broke through the stone wall and rammed the guns. Volley after volley was discharged at his machine from a roof nearby. Gordeyev dashed his giant into the house, went clean through it with the roof on top. Then he turned and shot down the surviving Germans with his machine guns.

Another incident described by Polyakov is the feat of the tank crew under Commander Astakhov. For two days Astakhov's brave men held their own against heavy odds, their only shelter being the damaged tank. They refused to surrender and shot down over 100 attackers. Finally they dismantled their machine-guns, wrecked the tank and broke through the German lines to our positions. The damaged machine was salvaged later.

ACROSS A FROZEN RIVER

The reader will undoubtedly be moved by Polyakov's description of a tank column crossing a frozen river. At times it seemed that the ice was just about to crack under the mighty machines. In the words of one of the participants, it was "like walking on a shaky mattress." But here, too, the tank corps was able to cope with the situation and overcome numerous difficulties.

One is moved by the story of the heroic death met by the tank crew commanded by Kalinchev. His machine penetrated deep into the enemy's lines and disappeared forever. Only with the help of the police dog nicknamed "Trophy"—captured from the Germans were the Soviet troops able to locate the bodies of the crew. "Trophy" was very much attached to the driver, Dormidontov and when the latter disappeared the dog became terribly restless. It was sent out on a fresh scent and returned to the Soviet lines with a note from Kalinchev: "These will probably be our last lines and I'm sending them with 'Trophy.' We're still alive and using up our last rounds of ammunition. We shall not surrender."

BURNT ALIVE

These men were burnt alive by Hitler's monsters. Like a cliff, the grave of steel containing the bodies of these valiant men stands out on the scorched field. Our soldiers visit this spot time and again, remove their helmets and stand in silence before the ruins of this tank. Very often Dormidontov's mascot "Trophy" is with them. Polyakov's description of a British tank going into battle side by side with one of the "KV" machines reads like a symbol of the fighting unity which binds two freedom-loving peoples in a joint struggle against the German forces.

Soviet tankmen fondly call their British tanks "Pals." In one battle a Nazi plane dived to bomb a British machine operated by a Soviet crew. There ensued a bitter duel between tank and airplane. But the British "pal" emerged victor.

Soviet Psychology

BY

MAURICE HINDUS

I have been in this country three months. I have travelled extensively. I have been at the front. I have talked to all manner of people, soldiers and civilians, peasants and city folk, adults and children. Now my mind teems with so many impressions that it is difficult in a brief article even to hint at them.

Everyday I see or hear something new and full of meaning. For example, at Pogoreloye Gorodishche, which the Red Army recently reconquered from the Germans, one of the cars in which correspondents travelled lurched into a rain-soaked rut and the chauffeur had difficulty in getting it out. A Red Army major came along, glanced around the road and asked the chauffeur where he kept his spade. The chauffeur told him. The major got the spade, dug dirt into the rut and the track and told the chauffeur to go ahead. The car rolled out as easily as if it were on an asphalt road. The major put the spade back into the car and after brushing off his hands and his clothes went on his way.

The sanctity and the glory of labour, any kind of labour, anywhere, has become such an integral part of Soviet psychology that no one in or out of the army, however high his position, even has the feeling that the handling of a spade, a hammer, a saw, performing any kind of menial task, is in and of itself beneath the dignity of his position or his person. There can be no doubt that this spirit of democracy is in no small measure responsible for the high morale of the Red Army.

NAZI RULE IN THE UKRAINE.—This picture which reached London through a neutral source, was taken in the scorched earth of the Ukraine, where the Nazis are using old men, women and even children to replace horses. A Russian family is seen forced to draw a harrow.

CHILDREN AND WAR

The other day while strolling along a remote section of Moscow I came upon a group of children in a side street who were leaning over a box of sand talking excitedly. I stopped to watch them and asked what they were doing. " Putting out bombs," said a sprightly little girl of about five or six. " But I see no bombs, " I said. Lifting a round little stick out of the box, she said, " Here is the bomb," and with a scoopful of sand proceeded to demonstrate how to put it out.

Soon other children in the street gathered about. Older folk also stopped. There was much animated talk as there always is whenever a Russian crowd gathers in the street, From this talk I learned for the first time the momentousness of the part that children played in putting out incendiary bombs and preventing fires in Moscow in the days when the Germans were making air raids on the city.

I was in America at the time and had read of it in the press. But the printed stories could not convey the heroism of children in those days as vividly as did the living words of the children themselves and their parents. In this war of wars the part that children are playing in the defence of the country not only in Moscow but all over the land—on farms, in hospitals, in guerilla detachment behind the enemy's lines—constitutes one of the most dramatic chapters in the history not only of the Soviet Union but of the world. I do not know of any other time anywhere when children rendered their country as much service as Russian children are doing now.

Yet to me the one outstanding thing of the so-called Russian rear is the magnitude of the

work that the collective farms are now performing. Perhaps it is because I am by my original profession an agronome that collectivization holds so much meaning for me. I watched this extraordinary revolution in Russian agriculture since the days of its inception, and only now when Russia is fighting a war " not of life but of death " as the Russian press keeps continually emphasizing, is the purely military aspect of it so impressive.

ENGINE-MINDED

This is a war of engines. To fight nowadays, the soldier has to understand an engine as well as a gun. Prior to collectivization the peasantry in the mass had not the least conception what an engine was. But collectivization, riding, one might say, on the wheels of a tractor into the Russian countryside, made the engine as much an everyday fact as the plough. Within about five years millions and millions of young folk in the villages, boys and girls, became engine-minded. Suppose there had been no collectivization and no tractor in the Russian village in the years preceding Germany's attack on Russia. One shudders to think what the consequences would have been. But because the Russians, especially the youth, are so intensively engine-minded the country can fight on and on with no other thought than to achieve complete victory over the enemy.

I have visited a number of collective farms in the Kuityshev region. I saw how well-tilled were the lands, how fine were the crops, the rye, the wheat, the potatoes, the sunflower—this despite the fact that the work is largely in the hands of women and older folk. I couldn't help wondering what would have been the condition of the crops had the fields been worked in the old-fashioned way—each peasant ploughing, harrowing, sowing, weeding, cultivating his own patch of land, in his own manner, with no particular regard for climatic conditions, for selection of a seed, for any of the other purely scientific requisites to good farming with which collectivization has richly endowed the Russian countryside.

Collectivization has made Russian engine-minded nation and has made possible not only scientific tillage of the land but planned distribution of food, so that the army and the civilian population can be adequately nourished in these grim fighting times. I am certain that the future historian will point to collectivization as one of the most stupendous achievements not only of the Russian revolution but of all times. Indeed, without it victory over Germany would have been impossible; with it, in this writer's judgment, it is more than certain.—*Moscow News.*

The Soldiers' Oath

[We gladly reprint an illuminating extract on the important subject of civilian and military relations—*Ed.*]

"I would remind you that every soldier takes the oath to lay down his life for the protection of the civilian, and he will be your protection in future." These were the words of a senior military officer speaking at a joint civilian-troops tea party in the Presidency recently. He also made the point that " civilians had a harder time in many ways than the services who went to war." " I think there is too much difference of opinion between civilians and the services and *this is usually because we don't know sufficient about each other* ", he added.

Certainly this type of joint tea party is doing a great deal to bring the two closer together, and these functions taking place now in all parts of the Presidency are proving increasingly popular and entertaining. Moreover, the effect on the morale of the troops is admirable for they can see that their sacrifices are appreciated, while the civilians can get to know the sepoys much better and to understand them.

Prominent civilians were present and over 100 men from various services were entertained by an Indian orchestra comprising veena, tabla, mridangam and violin.

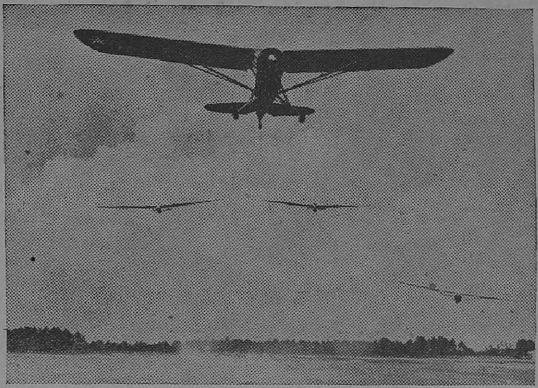
The host, Rao Bahadur P. S. G. Rangaswami Nayudu, struck the note prevailing at the party when he said : " the public have to realize well the responsibilities that the Fighting Forces undertake and they must be sympathetic towards them. Soldiers should for their part show due respect to the public. Mutual respect and friendliness will beget great good in the defence of the country and its well being."

RANGOON IS HERE

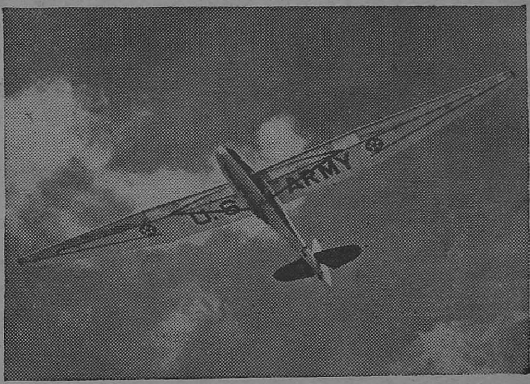
"Saturday Soldiers"—the name given to men of the Rangoon Field Brigade because they were civilians who donned uniform only at week-ends in peacetime—have now been entirely re-organized, and are manning some of the big coastal guns which defend India's shores against the dangers of a sea-borne invasion.

U.S. GLIDER TROOPS

In 1884 an American, Professor J. J. Montgomery, made the first successful glider flight in history—a glide of some 600 feet from the top of a hill on the U.S. West Coast. Today the glider is one of the most spectacular developments of warfare. These photos, made at one of the glider-troop training grounds in the U.S., show how American soldiers are preparing for offensive action with the aid of these motorless sky carriers.



In a burst of dust, a triple-tow formation of light gliders leaves the runway. The gliders, being lighter than their tow ship, leave the ground first and stay slightly above the tow ship throughout the flight. The deceptive appearance of the gliders behind the plane in this picture is due to the angle from which the photograph was taken.



Released by the tow ship this glider soars toward its destination.

Out of nowhere, glider fighters drop to earth to attack enemy positions. The man on the right holds a gun ready though he is still discarding his parachute.

Diary of the War

ENGLAND AND GERMANY

22nd Nov.—The Royal Air Force attacked an enemy convoy off the Dutch coast near the Hague.

23rd Nov.—Sir Stafford Cripps was appointed Minister of Aircraft Production. Mr. Herbert Morrison was appointed in his place in the War Cabinet (in addition to the post of Home Secretary and Minister of Home Security). Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, was appointed Leader of the House.

24th Nov.—The Royal Air Force attacked Stuttgart, the heart of the industrial district in Germany.

According to the Berlin correspondent of a Swiss paper, "The German people fervently desire peace."

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

22nd Nov.—The United States Treasury decided to borrow from non-banking investors and commercial banks 9,000 million dollars, the largest sum ever borrowed by any Government in a single operation.

Mrs. Roosevelt, in a broadcast to the American nation, said: "There is very little grumbling among the British people. If we can voluntarily give work and make sacrifices in the same spirit that the British people are giving, we may be able to shorten the war."

War-time powers were granted to President Roosevelt.

23rd Nov.—It was revealed that the war to date had cost the United States 60,000 million dollars or twice the total cost of the last war.

24th Nov.—The independence of French West Indies and French Guiana from Vichy Government was considered assured by a new agreement concluded between the United States Department's representative in Martinique and the French High Commissioner.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

21st Nov.—The Royal Air Force attacked the Japanese aerodrome at Pakokku in Burma.

22nd Nov.—The Japanese aerodrome at Magwe in Burma was bombed.

23rd Nov.—The Royal Air Force attacked Japanese aerodromes at Mingaladon and Toungoo in Burma and Mandalay.

24th Nov.—The Royal Air Force raided Akyab. Japanese river steamers were attacked.

25th Nov.—Japanese reinforcements were sent to Burma, Siam and Indo-China. Barges and tanks were concentrated on the west bank of the Salween river. Japanese warships arrived at Kwangchowan. Three hundred aircraft arrived at Saigon.

The Royal Air Force attacked the enemy aerodrome at Meiktila and Mandalay.

CAN WE FORGET ?

"We cannot reckon the full contribution of those gallant fighting Russians who believed death itself far better than surrender. It was their unflagging determination to maintain intact an organized military force, their grim and desperate stubbornness against overwhelming odds, that diverted the German armies from the west to the east, thus snatching for us a precious period wherein we could muster combined Allied resources of production and men, reorganize our strength and so deliver telling blows against the enemy before it was too late.

"Of the British Commonwealth and England, our prodded memories must lead us to say, 'They gave us and Russia the chance to fight.' Can we forget the risks the British ran when they stripped their island under attack and . . . sent equipment halfway around the world to hold Suez? . . . Can we forget, after the fall of France, the way that the R.A.F. repelled Hitler?"

—Mr. LEWIS W. DOUGLASS, *Deputy of U.S. War Shipping Administration, in an address to the Academy of Political Sciences.*

26th Nov.—One heavily armed Japanese raider was sunk in a battle in the Indian Ocean. Two of her aircraft also were sunk by an Indian mine-sweeper, H.I.M.S. Bengal and a Dutch tanker.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

21st Nov.—Allied troops continued to advance in Tunisia and were within 32 miles to Bizerta. The French forces rejected the Nazi ultimatum to evacuate Tunisian territory, or join the Axis.

German troops evacuated Benghazi. The Allies retook over 120 enemy landing grounds in Cyrenaica from Daba to Mechili. Over 550 Axis aircraft were destroyed.

Admiral Darlan broadcasting over the Algiers Radio said that Petain was still " the living incarnation of France," but that with the invasion of unoccupied territory, he had lost his freedom of action.

22nd Nov.—British troops occupied Benghazi and contacted enemy troops near Agedabia. The whole of Cyrenaica fell into British hands.

The Allies launched a three-pronged drive on Bizerta. Four large enemy aerodromes in Sicily were bombed.

It was revealed that a German submarine fleet was concentrated off Gibraltar.

Algiers was bombed.

Turin was again heavily bombed.

23rd Nov.—West of Tunis, Allied shock troops attacked German defensive positions and gained possession of a road junction. German troops crossed over from Tripolitania. Nine German planes were shot down. French troops captured several German groups west of Gabes.

American shock troops took Kasbah with a combined assault of artillery, and dive bombers.

24th Nov.—Tunis and Bizerta were surrounded. Gabes harbour fell into Axis hands but their forces were driven out of Gafsa Oasis. Axis bombers attacked Algiers. German troops were forced to withdraw from Agedabia.

According to well-informed circles, Marshal Badaglio was the head of a movement for separate peace with the Allies.

Admiral Darlan announced that French West Africa had placed itself freely at his disposal.

25th Nov.—Allied advance towards Tunis-Bizerta slowed down. The Germans had a larger number of bombers and fighters operating against the Allies, most of them withdrawn from the Russian front. The Royal Air Force attacked Bizerta harbour.

British troops occupied Agedabia and Gialo in the interior of Libya.

26th Nov.—An air raid alarm was sounded in Cape Town.

According to Mr. Anthony Eden, the battle in North Africa reached an " extremely critical stage."

The Royal Air Force attacked Trapani. British and American troops made their way eastwards over enormous distances. The Eighth Army continued to press the retreating Axis forces between Jedabaya and Agheila. Nazis were thrown back south of Tunis.

* * * *

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

21st Nov.—The Germans were in full retreat in the Caucasus, having been defeated in the battle in the approaches to Ordzonikidze in which 5,000 Germans were killed. Nazi assaults on Stalingrad were held.

22nd Nov.—The Russian army took the offensive in Mozdok area.

23rd Nov.—The Russians launched an offensive north-west and south of Stalingrad. Kalach, a town on the eastern back of the Don, was recaptured. The Germans left 14,000 dead on the field.

HI, GENERAL!

Attending a chemical warfare demonstration somewhere in India was a General who had forgotten to bring a waterproof.

Rain threatened, and he was glad to accept the protection of a golf-umbrella which somebody produced.

A moment later the voice of the demonstrations' controller, a junior officer, boomed from the loud-speaker—

" Will the officer using a golf-umbrella please note that it is no adequate protection against gas? And will he please sit down as he is obstructing the view of others in his vicinity? "

24th Nov.—The Red Army launched double offensive round Stalingrad. According to *Pravda*, that in the fighting for Stalingrad, the Germans lost 800 tanks, 1,000 planes and 100,000 officers and men killed.

25th Nov.—The Soviet army closed round on the Germans besieging Stalingrad. German line south-west of the city was penetrated. The Nazis fled precipitately from Chernyshevskaya. Eleven thousand prisoners were taken.

26th Nov.—The siege of Stalingrad was lifted. The Soviet army broke through the German fortified lines in the industrial area north of the city and pursued the retreating Nazis. Thousands of prisoners were taken. Russian forces broke through the German positions on the Rzhev front also.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

21st Nov.—According to a New York report, General Franco informed both the Axis and the United Nations that Spain would immediately accept help from the enemy of the aggressor if any of her sea or air bases were seized.

22nd Nov.—Air raid alerts were sounded in Basle and Berne.

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

21st Nov.—The Royal Air Force carried out offensive patrols over France, Belgium and Holland.

General Weygand was arrested and taken to Germany.

Marshal Petain, broadcasting to the French people, said: " In the interests of France I have decided to extend M. Laval's powers."

22nd Nov.—The Vichy Radio announced the dissolution of the Committee set up for promoting better relations between France and Germany.

M. Laval, in a public speech, said: " The situation to-day is tragic. Without her empire, France cannot live. It is in the interests of France to come to direct reconciliation with Germany."

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THE FAR EAST

21st Nov.—The Japanese occupied Lanten in Portuguese Timor. There was renewed Japanese air activity over Attu island in the Aleutians.

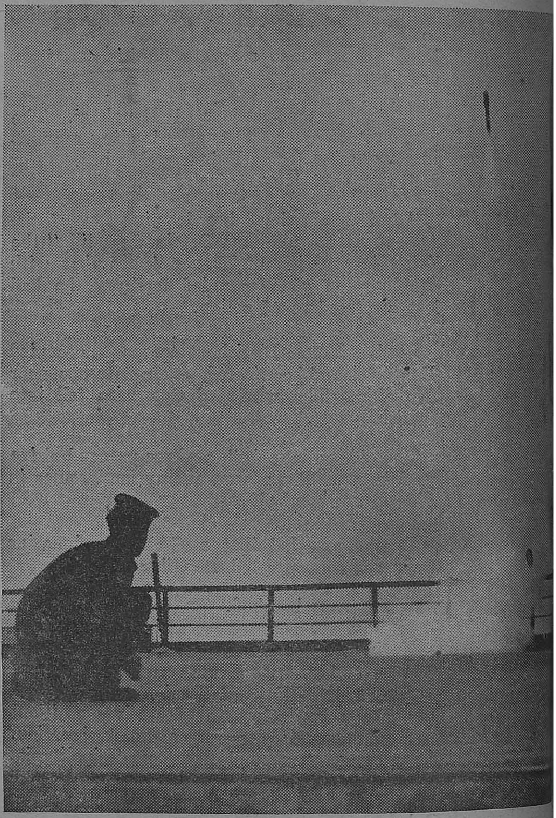
22nd Nov.—There was heavy fighting in the Buna-Gona region. It was estimated that 10,000 Japanese were killed in Guadalcanar.

23rd Nov.—American and Australian troops breaking through Japanese positions, captured Seputa, a port in Buna. American troops advanced in Guadalcanar.

24th Nov.—General MacArthur's forces were within a mile of Buna. Australian troops broke into Gona. The American forces continued to advance in Guadalcanar.

American aircraft raided Haiphong in Indo-China.

Japanese attempt to cross the Sintsiang river in northern Hunan was repulsed.



First pictures of the new device used most successfully in the defence of ships against dive bombers. The rocket apparatus shoots parachutes into the sky from which are trailed long wires—these form a deadly " wire barrage " into which many a Nazi dive bomber has had its wings cut off before being able to swerve out of the way. Photo shows the rocket leaving the gun carrying wire aloft.

25th Nov.—The Australians entered Gona, one of Japan's last two foot-holds on the New Guinea coast. Cape Endaiadere near Buna was captured.

26th Nov.—There was heavy fighting by air and land in Buna.

A new and important naval battle was raging in the Solomons.

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